

715

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Emanuel County Courthouse and Sheriff Department
other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number Main Street
city, town Swainsboro () vicinity of
county Emanuel code GA 107
state Georgia code GA zip code 30401

() not for publication

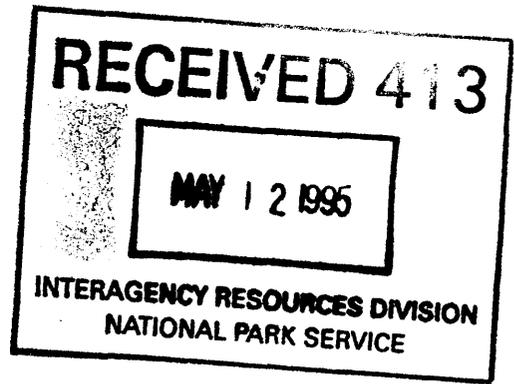
3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- () private
- (X) public-local
- () public-state
- () public-federal

Category of Property

- (X) building(s)
- () district
- () site
- () structure
- () object



Number of Resources within Property:

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	2	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	2	0

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: n/a

Name of related multiple property listing: County Courthouses in Georgia

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Mark R. Edwards
Signature of certifying official

5/05/95
Date

Mark R. Edwards
State Historic Preservation Officer,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

In my opinion, the property () meets () does not meet the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Edson H. Beall Entered in the
National Register 6/14/95

() determined eligible for the National Register

() determined not eligible for the National Register

() removed from the National Register

() other, explain:

() see continuation sheet

Signature, Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

GOVERNMENT: courthouse
GOVERNMENT: office

Current Functions:

GOVERNMENT: courthouse
GOVERNMENT: correctional facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

OTHER: STRIPPED CLASSICAL

Materials:

foundation	concrete
walls	marble
roof	gravel
other	n/a

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Emanuel County Courthouse is located in the county seat of Swainsboro, ninety miles east of Macon and west of Savannah. Designed by the architectural firm of Dennis and Dennis, the courthouse was constructed in 1940.

The courthouse is a Stripped Classical, three-story building with a flat roof, marble exterior siding, and concrete foundation. It is I-shaped rather than rectangular, with the main entrance on the east end. The central portion of the east and west ends protrude. There is decorative marble coping on the roof edge and a stringcourse below the third story windows.

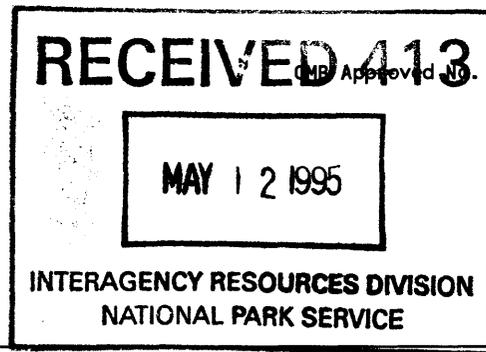
The central double door entrances on the east and west facades have flat awnings and clocks. All four facades have "EMANUEL COUNTY COURT HOUSE" engraved in the center. On each side of the east facade doors, there are original light fixtures and engraved marble tablets listing the history of the Emanuel County Courthouses and the commissioners at the time the present courthouse was built. The multiple light windows are vertically oriented and have green marble panels between the first and second story windows. The windows on the center of the side facades are recessed so that the surrounding marble separators have the appearance of pilasters.

Originally the interior layout of the courthouse was a cross plan with halls radiating to each entrance from the center, but the south entrance and hall was closed off in the 1960s to provide for more office space. There are county offices on the first floor with two marble staircases with iron and brass rails on the east end of the hall and one on the west end--both lead to the second floor. The

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7



courtroom and more offices are on the second floor. The third floor is used for storage.

Interior features include marble and plaster walls, terrazzo and synthetic tile flooring, chair rails in offices, and some original hardware and fixtures. The courtroom double doors are glass and aluminum with an open pediment. The courtroom features the original fixtures, two sections of public seating, open pedimented doors, pedimented judges bench, and acoustical tile ceiling with wood cross-beams.

West of the courthouse, the Sheriff Department was constructed in 1912 and designed by L.F. Goodrich, of Augusta, Georgia. It is a one-story, brick, Neoclassical Revival building with a hipped asphalt shingled roof and concrete foundation. There is a pedimented entrance portico, paired columns, dentils, and arched windows with brick arches and keystones. The interior has plaster walls and ceilings, carpeting, and some historic fluorescent lighting. The floor plan has been altered to accommodate changing needs. This building was governmental office space before becoming the Sheriff Department.

The courthouse and Sheriff Department encompasses almost the whole block in the center of the Swainsboro commercial area. There is a small lawn with oaks, magnolias, shrubbery, and ivy. There is a brick wall between the lawn and sidewalk that goes around the courthouse and Sheriff Department. There are monuments and historic markers in front of the courthouse.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

ARCHITECTURE
POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance:

1912-1945

Significant Dates:

1912 - Sheriff Department constructed
1940 - Present courthouse completed

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Dennis & Dennis - architects of the courthouse
Walter Aldred - contractor of the courthouse
L.F. Goodrich - architect of the Sheriff Department

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Emanuel County Courthouse is significant in architecture as a good and intact example of a Stripped Classical-style community landmark type of building built during the 1930s and 1940s. The classical style of architecture became popular for use in public buildings after the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 which featured the "White City," which was made up of buildings that housed the exhibits. The use of classical elements in public buildings continued until the mid-20th century. As reflected in the Emanuel County Courthouse, the classical elements became more understated after the 1910s, as seen in its lack of ornamentation. This more straight forward style can in part be attributed to the higher cost of building and the lessening of available public funds during and after the Depression, as well as to the rise of modern architecture which favored function over form and a lack of stylistic elements.

The Stripped Classical-style courthouse, with its suggestion of columns, simple cornice, and symmetry has understated classical detailing underlying an otherwise unadorned building. This building represents a transition between classical influenced architecture with pediments and pilasters and modern architecture which is characterized by plain wall surfaces and no stylistic detailing as seen in Art Deco style buildings. This Stripped Classical style or "starved classical" style was commonly used for governmental buildings from the 1920s through the 1940s and represents the synthesis of the "traditionalists," who favored the use of classical details, and the "modernists," who favored simple, unadorned buildings and rejected historical antecedents.

The intact architectural features on the interior, such as the marble walls, terrazzo flooring, the original hardware and fixtures, and classically detailed courtroom, enhance the architectural significance of the courthouse.

Like other community landmark type of buildings, the Emanuel County Courthouse is freestanding and, when built, was the most modern in Swainsboro and reflected the architectural trends of the period. As a centerpiece for public gatherings, the courthouse provides a sense of place and cohesiveness for the citizens and symbolizes the permanence, stability, and strength of a county.

The courthouse is also significant in terms of architecture as a design of the prominent architectural firm of Dennis & Dennis of Macon, Georgia. This firm is Georgia's oldest architectural firm

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

established by Peter E. Dennis (1854-1929) in 1884. As of 1991, there were only fourteen older firms in America. John Cobb Dennis (1892-1965) was principal during which time the Emanuel, Telfair, and Peach County Courthouses were built. The firm is known for their designs of churches, auditoriums, city halls, courthouses, residences, and commercial buildings.

The Sheriff Department is significant in terms of architecture as a good, intact example of an early-20th century Neoclassical Revival-influenced, public building. Its symmetry, porticos, and classical detailing were common stylistic elements used during the first half of the 20th century in public buildings. It is also significant as a design of L.F. Goodrich, a prominent architect from Augusta, Georgia.

In terms of politics and government, the courthouse is significant because it has been the center for county governmental activity since it was built in 1939. In Georgia and throughout the South, county government has traditionally been the strongest form of local government. The present courthouse is the seventh Emanuel County Courthouse. The Sheriff Department is also significant in politics and government as housing the correctional branch of county government and before that other governmental offices.

The Emanuel County Courthouse is one of 19 Georgia courthouses built from 1930 to 1945. It is one of 7 courthouses that have not been documented as being funded by the federal government through one of its Depression Era relief programs.

National Register Criteria

The Emanuel County Courthouse and Sheriff Department are eligible under Criterion A for their significance in the political and governmental history of Emanuel County. They are also eligible under Criterion C as good intact examples of a Stripped Classical-style community landmark building and an early 20th-century, Neoclassical Revival-influenced public building.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n/a

Period of significance (justification)

The Sheriff Department was constructed in 1912 and the fifty-year cut-off of historical significance is 1945.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The contributing resources, the courthouse and the Sheriff Department, were built within the period of significance and retain a high degree of integrity. There are no noncontributing resources.

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

Emanuel County was established in 1812 and 1813 by Acts of the Georgia Legislature. The county was named for Governor David Emanuel who was also a legislator and president of the Senate. The county seat was placed at one mile from the center of the county in 1814 and named Swainsboro in 1822 for a prominent local family. In 1854, the name was changed to Paris, but was later changed back to Swainsboro.

The first Emanuel County Courthouse was built in 1814 on one-hundred acres of land on Crooked Creek and the Yam Grandy waters. The first courthouse land was granted to the county by the State of Georgia in 1814. It was a one story log building which burned in 1841. Built in 1845 by Henry Durden, the second courthouse was also a log building. It was replaced by the third courthouse in 1855 which was built by J.A. Stevenson and burned in 1857. "The old Daniel's House" was used as the courthouse from 1857 to 1895. The fifth courthouse was a Romanesque Revival-style brick building constructed in 1895. It burned down in 1919. In 1920, the sixth courthouse was completed. It was a Colonial Revival-style, brick building designed by Goodrich, Clark, & Story of Augusta and constructed by Holley Construction Company.

In 1938, the previous courthouse burned and was replaced by the present courthouse which was designed by the Macon architectural firm of Dennis & Dennis. The contractor was Walter Aldred from Statesboro, Georgia. The only major change to the building was in the 1960s when the south hallway and entrance was closed off to create more office space.

Constructed in 1912, the Sheriff Department was designed by L.F. Goodrich of Augusta. It was used as government office space before it became the Sheriff Department in 1994.

9. Major Bibliographic References

- Dorsey, James E. Footprints Along the Hoopee: A History of Emanuel County, 1812-1900. Spartanburg, SC: The Reprint Company, 1978.
- Rogers, W.C., Sr., ed. Emanuel County...1776-1976...Bicentennial Salute. Swainsboro, GA: The Swainsboro Forest-Blade Publishing Company, Inc., 1976.
- Sharp, Leslie N. "County Courthouses in Georgia," Multiple Property Documentation Form, amended submission, 1994. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) N/A

- () preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- () previously listed in the National Register
- () previously determined eligible by the National Register
- () designated a National Historic Landmark
- () recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- () recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- (X) State Historic Preservation Office
- () Other State Agency
- () Federal agency
- () Local government
- () University
- () Other, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

Sheriff Department - Em-305 Emanuel County Survey 1978

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately one acre.

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 374760 Northing 3607160

Verbal Boundary Description

This nomination encompasses the property which includes the Emanuel County Courthouse and the Sheriff Department, as indicated by the heavy black line on the attached tax map, drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the all of the property owned by Emanuel County at this location which includes the Emanuel County Courthouse and the Sheriff Department.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leslie N. Sharp, National Register Consultant
organization Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG)
street & number 50 Hurt Plaza, Suite 1000
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 522-5022 **date** April 13, 1995

(OHP form version 12-08-93)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: Emanuel County Courthouse and Sheriff
Department
City or Vicinity: Swainsboro
County: Emanuel
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: March 1995

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 6: Emanuel County Courthouse, front facade; photographer facing west.
- 2 of 6: South facade; photographer facing northeast.
- 3 of 6: West facade; photographer facing southeast.
- 4 of 6: North facade; photographer facing southeast.
- 5 of 6: Hallway; photographer facing west.
- 6 of 6: Courtroom; photographer facing northwest.

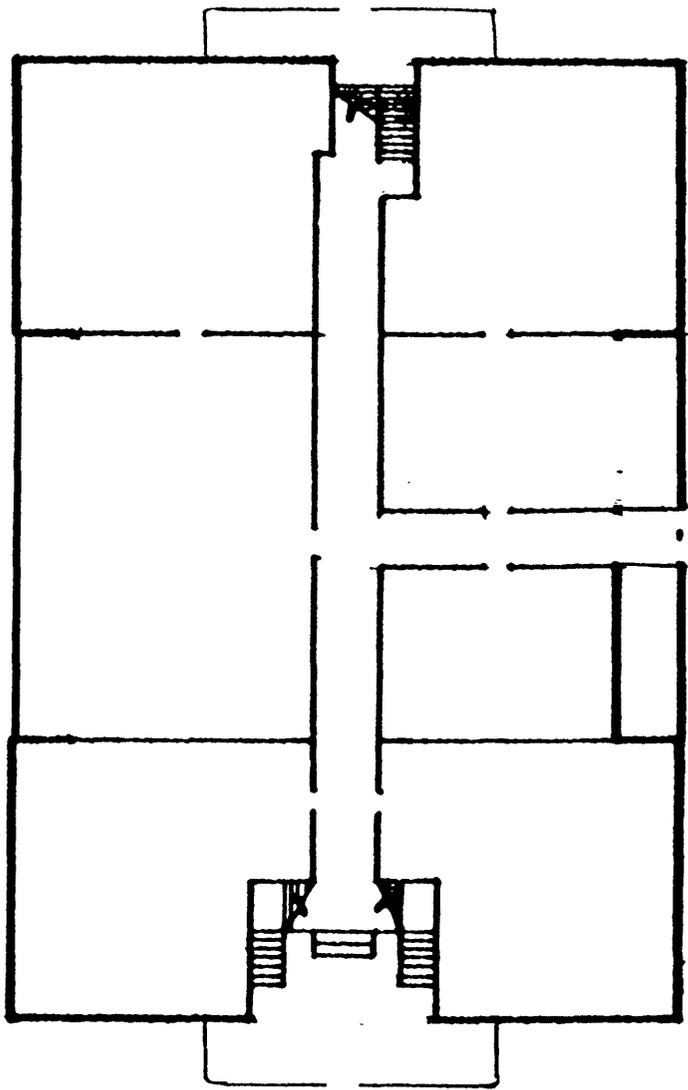
Emanuel County Courthouse & Sheriff Department
Emanuel County, Georgia
Site Plan
Not to Scale
Photographs: 
North: 



2

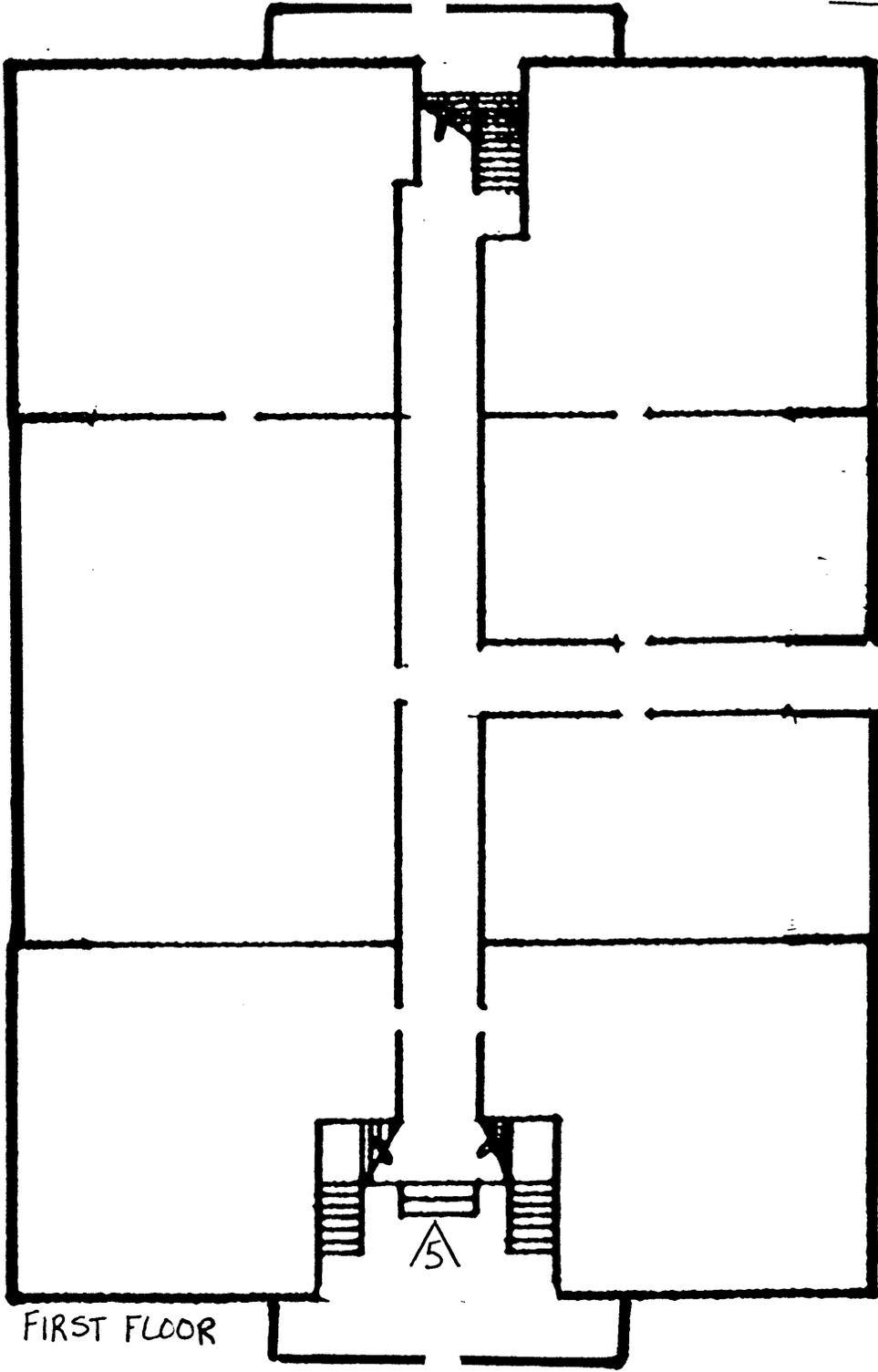
3

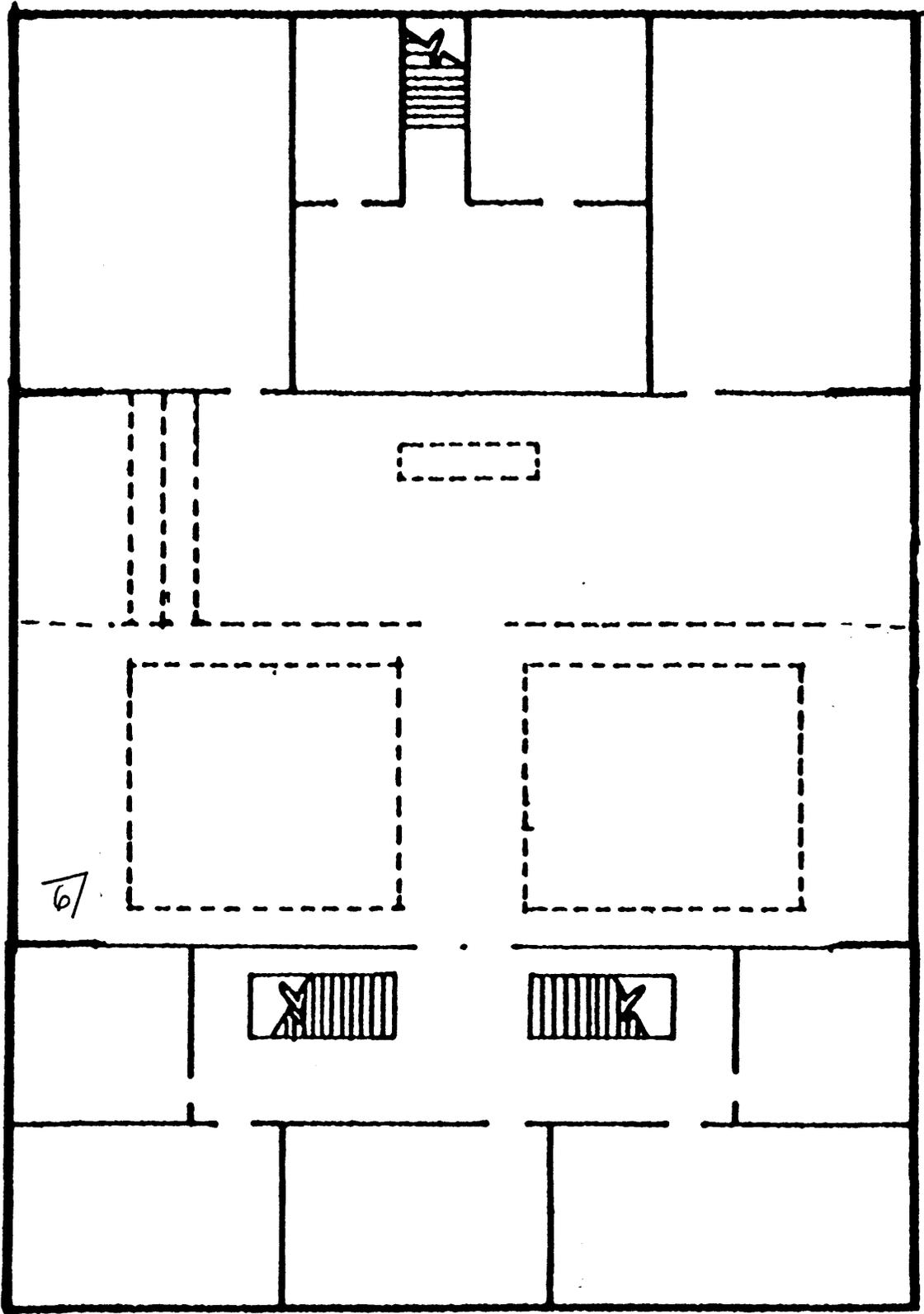
4



1

Emanuel County Courthouse
Emanuel County, Georgia
First Floor Plan
Not to Scale
Photographs:
North: →





SECOND FLOOR

Emanuel County Courthouse
Emanuel County, Georgia
Second Floor Plan
Not to Scale
Photographs: 
North: 